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said sealing means comprises a sealing cavity, wherein said sealing cavity is filled with a biocompatible sealing material, wherein said sealing material does not contain a pre-formed lumen, wherein said sealing material is self-sealing, wherein said sealing material forms a seal around the surgical components as the components are inserted through said sealing material and removed from said introducer sheath device during the surgical procedure.

D2 101. (Amended) The introducer sheath device according to Claim 82, wherein said biocompatible sealing material is a gel-like material.

Please add new claims 104 -114 as follows:

D3 --104. (New) An introducer sheath device for use during a surgical procedure for introducing surgical components into a vessel into a patient, said introducer sheath device comprising:

a housing having a passageway that accommodates the passage of the surgical components therein;

sealing means for preventing the loss of blood from the vessel during the insertion and subsequent removal of surgical components during the surgical procedure, wherein said sealing means comprises a sealing cavity, wherein said sealing cavity is filled with a biocompatible sealing material, wherein said sealing material does not contain a pre-formed lumen, wherein said sealing material is a self-sealing gel-like material, wherein said sealing material forms a seal around the surgical components as the components are inserted through said sealing material and removed from said introducer sheath device during the surgical procedure. --

--105. (New) The introducer sheath device according to Claim 104, further comprising:

positioning means for maintaining the position of said introducer sheath device in the vessel.--

--106. (New) The introducer sheath device according to Claim 105, wherein said positioning means comprises an inflatable cuff positioned at one end of said introducer sheath device.--

03 --107. (New) The introducer sheath device according to Claim 106, wherein said inflatable cuff is filled with a fluid.--

--108. (New) The introducer sheath device according to Claim 106, wherein said positioning means further includes at least one filling passageway for filling said inflatable cuff.--

--109. (New) The introducer sheath device according to Claim 108, wherein said at least one filling passageway extends along said passageway that accommodates the passage of the surgical components.--

--110. (New) The introducer sheath device according to Claim 104, wherein said housing comprises an outer surface and an inner surface.--

--111. (New) The introducer sheath device according to Claim 110, wherein said outer surface comprises silicon.--

--112. (New) The introducer sheath device according to Claim 110, wherein said inner surface comprises a synthetic fluorine-containing resin or a polymer.--

-- 113. (New) The introducer sheath device according to Claim 104, wherein said sealing cavity comprises an expanded housing assembly.--